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## Recent data on the distribution of birds in Guatemala, 2

by Peter W. Wendelken and Robert F. Martin

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Distributional information on Guatemalan birds was organised comprehensively by Land (1970) and updated in part by Wendelken & Martin (1986) following studies of avian frugivory in Guatemala's arid interior (Wendelken & Martin 1987, 1988). In our first report, covering the period 1981–1985, we presented distributional data for 42 species; for 26 of these, our data represented the first record for the species from the tropical arid interior and was annotated FRTAI (see definition, Wendelken & Martin 1986). Here we present additional data on distribution for 26 species, based primarily on work during 1986 and 1988. We present the first record from Guatemala for one species (*Amazilia violiceps*) and the second record or second known site in Guatemala for 3 others. For 14 species, we present geographical range extensions for regions, departments or locations from which the species has not been reported previously: 3 for Tikal National Park and the Department Petén, 3 for the Motagua Valley portion of the arid interior (FRTAI), 2 for the Department Sacatepéquez, 1 for the Pacific lowland, and



Figure 1. Outline map of Guatemala. E=Dpto. Escuintla; I=Dpto. Izabal; P=Dpto. Petén; S=Dpto. Sacatepéquez; Z=Dpto. Zacapa. Located by dots are: Tikal National Park, Dpto. Petén; El Cimarrón, Dpto. Izabal; and Puerto de Iztapa, Dpto. Escuintla.

7 easternmost records for the country from El Cimarrón, Department Izabal (Fig. 1). El Cimarrón is located at km 269 of the Route to the Atlantic (Ruta al Atlántico), c. 5 km from the town Tenedores and c. 18 km SSW of Puerto Barrios. For 9 species, we present data that supplement those presented in our first report (Wendelken & Martin 1986—herein annotated W&M). Other records are noteworthy for reasons given within the appropriate species accounts. All records are based on observations made using 10 × 50 binoculars. Our conclusions concerning the appropriateness of our records are based primarily on comparisons with Land's species accounts and range maps (1970), Land's earlier distributional papers (1962a, b, 1963), and search of the subsequent literature.

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

### **GREAT BLUE HERON** *Ardea herodias*

22 Feb 1986, one seen along the Motagua River at Santa Cruz, Dpto. Zacapa. (FRTAI: W&M, 9 Mar 1984.)

### **GREAT EGRET** *Casmerodius albus*

22 Feb 1986, one seen along the Motagua R. at Santa Cruz, Dpto. Zacapa. 19 Jan 1988, one seen along the Río Grande de Zacapa at Estanzuela, Dpto. Zacapa. (FRTAI: W&M, 8 Mar & 4 Jun 1984.)

**SNOWY EGRET** *Egretta thula*

Single birds seen along the Motagua R. at Santa Cruz, Dpto. Zacapa on 22 and 23 Feb 1986. 19 Jan 1988, 4 seen along the Río Grande de Zacapa at Estanzuela, Dpto. Zacapa. FRTAI.

**LITTLE BLUE HERON** *Egretta caerulea*

19 Feb 1986, one adult and one juvenile (all white) seen along the Río Grande de Zacapa at Estanzuela, Dpto. Zacapa. 2 adults seen at same site, 19 Jan 1988. One adult seen along the Motagua R. at Santa Cruz, Dpto. Zacapa on 22 and 23 Feb 1986. (FRTAI: W&M, 10 Mar & 24 Jul 1984.)

**BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE** *Elanus caeruleus*

On 21 and 22 Feb 1986, single birds seen soaring at Santa Cruz, Dpto. Zacapa. One seen on 22 Mar 1986 and 3 on 4 Feb 1988 along highway, 10–20 km NE of Quiriguá, Dpto. Izabal. (FRTAI: W&M, 10 Mar 1984 and first records for the Caribbean lowland, Guatemala, W&M, 9 Mar & 3 Sep 1984.)

**SNAIL KITE** *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

21 Feb 1986, one adult female or immature bird seen in full sunlight flying from a marshy field 2 km SW of Santa Cruz, Dpto. Zacapa. One adult female or immature bird seen and photographed at Santa Cruz on 22 Feb 1986 and 2 (either adult female or immature) seen there next day, one perched in tree and vocalising, the other flying. (FRTAI: W&M, 13 Mar 1984.)

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** *Accipiter striatus*

One observed at close range (20 m) at El Cimarrón, Dpto. Izabal, 19 Mar 1986. Not recorded in Land's study (1963) of the Caribbean lowland. Appears to be the first record for Dpto. Izabal and extends the known range of this species to easternmost Guatemala.

**ZONE-TAILED HAWK** *Buteo albonotatus*

Rare, possibly resident, in Guatemala; apart from several trade skins of unspecified locality, the only record is from Ocos, at sea level on the Pacific coast (Land 1970). 1 Nov 1985, one in adult plumage seen soaring low, at close range, in excellent light near a permanent stream in Alotenango, Dpto. Sacatepéquez. Yellow cere, long black-and-white banded tail, and 2-tone (black and grey) wings were clearly observed. The first record for the Guatemalan highlands and Dpto. Sacatepéquez.

**FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL** *Glaucidium brasilianum*

Single birds seen on 20 and 21 Mar 1986 and 2 Feb 1988 at El Cimarrón, Dpto. Izabal. Although recorded previously in western Dpto. Izabal (Land 1963), these are the easternmost records for Guatemala.

**GREEN-BREASTED MANGO** *Anthracothonax prevostii*

At Estanzuela, Dpto. Zacapa, one female seen on 19 Feb 1986 and 2 females seen next day. At this site in 1988, 2 males were observed on 19 Jan; 4 males and 2 females (one female photographed) on 20 Jan; 2 males and 2 females on 31 Jan and 1 female on 5 Feb. On 17 Jan 1988, one female seen in the foothills of the Sierra de las Minas at 100–150 m elevation above the Motagua Valley floor village of Monte Grande (located c. 4 km west of Santa Cruz, Dpto. Zacapa). The habitat at this foothills site is the

same dry scrub forest found on the Motagua Valley floor. (FRTAI: W&M, one female, 8 & 10 Mar 1984 at Santa Cruz, Dpto. Zacapa.)

**VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD** *Amazilia violiceps*

Not recorded from Guatemala (Land 1970), its previously known southern extent of range was Chiapas, México (Peterson & Chalif 1973). 17 Jan 1988, one male observed when it was both feeding and perched at very close range (to 5 m) in full sunlight for c. 30 min in the southern foothills of the Sierra de las Minas, at c. 100–150 m elevation above the Motagua Valley floor village of Monte Grande. Monte Grande is located c. 4 km west of Santa Cruz, Dpto. Zacapa. The habitat of the site is dry scrub forest (cacti, thorny scrub) and the bird was observed c. 20 m from a wooded canyon. The bill (including upper mandible) was red with a black tip, the crown violet-blue, the tail rufous above, the throat, breast, abdomen and sides a pure white. This is the first record for Guatemala and FRTAI.

**TURQUOISE-BROWED MOTMOT** *Eumomota superciliosa*

El Cimarrón, Dpto. Izabal, one seen along the Río Tenedores near a vertical dirt bank, 19 Mar 1986. 22 Mar 1986, 2 pairs and a single bird seen along the banks of the Río Tenedores (one bird photographed). 4 Feb 1988, 3 seen at the same site. Although previously recorded in western Dpto. Izabal (Land 1970), these are the easternmost records for Guatemala.

**PALTRY TYRANULET** *Zimmerius vilissimus*

El Cimarrón, Dpto. Izabal, single birds seen on 22 Mar 1986 & 3 Feb 1988. Although previously recorded in western Dpto. Izabal (Land 1963), these are the easternmost records for Guatemala.

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** *Contopus borealis*

16 Jan 1986, one seen on the lower northern slopes of Volcán del Agua, 8 km south of Antigua, Dpto. Sacatepéquez. W&M (1986) extended the earliest calendar date from 7 Mar to 28 Jan; latest calendar dates are 16 Dec (Land 1970) and 30 Dec (Brose *et al.* 1980). Present record suggests possible winter resident, rather than migrant, status.

**BLACK PHOEBE** *Sayornis nigricans*

Recorded in the Caribbean lowland from northwestern and western Dpto. Izabal (Land 1970). One seen on 2 Feb 1988 and 2 on 4 Feb 1988 along the Río Tenedores at El Cimarrón, Dpto. Izabal. These are the easternmost records for Guatemala.

**TREE SWALLOW** *Tachycineta bicolor*

Four observed on 28 Jan 1988 and 2 next day flying continuously over artificial ponds adjacent to headquarters at Tikal National Park, Dpto. Petén. First record for Tikal Nat. Pk. and Dpto. Petén.

**MANGROVE SWALLOW** *Tachycineta albilinea*

Río Grande de Zacapa at Estanzuela, Dpto. Zacapa, one seen on 19 Feb 1986, 4 on 19 Jan 1988 and one on 31 Jan 1988. Motagua R. at Santa Cruz, Dpto. Zacapa, 2 on 22 Feb 1986 and one next day. (FRTAI: W&M, Mar–Jul 1984.)



**CLIFF SWALLOW** *Hirundo pyrrhonota*

One seen repeatedly in a mixed flock of swallows, flying over artificial ponds adjacent to headquarters at Tikal National Park, Dpto. Petén, 28 and 29 Jan 1988. First record for Tikal Nat. Pk. and Dpto. Petén.

**NORTHERN PARULA** *Parula americana*

One female seen on 26 Jan 1988 in Tikal Nat. Pk. Partial white eye ring and absence of black mask noted clearly. First record for Tikal Nat. Pk. and Dpto. Petén.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** *Helmitheros vermivorus*

Recorded from near sea level to 1500 m in Guatemala (Land 1970). 3 Oct 1985, one seen at c. 2700 m on Volcán del Agua, Dpto. Sacatepéquez.

**WHITE-VENTED EUPHONIA** *Euphonia minuta*

Resident and rare, recorded in Guatemala only at Cobán, Dpto. Alta Verapaz (Salvin & Godman 1879: 259, cited in Land 1970). El Cimarrón, Dpto. Izabal, in 2–3 m fruiting shrubs in an overgrown pasture adjacent to the Río Tenedores, single males seen on 19 and 22 Mar 1986 and 2 males and one female on 2 Feb 1988. Observed at close range in sun and confirmed by photographs, the posterior abdomen, vent and undertail coverts of the males were completely white. The female had a greyish throat and whitish abdomen. On 3 Feb 1988, a male seen in a low (6 m) fruiting tree at forest edge c. 2 km upstream from previous site. First records for Dpto. Izabal and Caribbean lowland of Guatemala.

**WESTERN TANAGER** *Piranga ludoviciana*

20 Feb 1986, one male seen at Estanzuela, Dpto. Zacapa. Single birds seen at this site, 19 and 31 Jan 1988. FRTAI. 19 Mar 1986, one male seen at El Cimarrón, Dpto. Izabal. Although recorded in the Caribbean lowland at Panzos, Dpto. Alta Verapaz (Land 1963), and apparently from western Dpto. Izabal (Land 1970), this is the easternmost record for Guatemala.

**GRAYISH SALTATOR** *Saltator coerulescens*

23 Feb 1986, one adult seen at Santa Cruz, Dpto. Izabal. (FRTAI: W&M, Apr–Jun 1984.)

**GRASSLAND YELLOW-FINCH** *Sicalis luteola*

Probably resident; the only previous record was from Dueñas, Dpto. Sacatepéquez, in the 19th Century (Land 1970). On 23 Jan 1988, one male seen along the road between San Juan del Obispo and Santa María de Jesús, 9 km south of Antigua, Dpto. Sacatepéquez.

**RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD** *Agelaius phoeniceus*

19 Feb 1986, various males heard vocalising near the Río Grande de Zacapa at Estanzuela, Dpto. Zacapa. (FRTAI: W&M, Apr–Jul 1984, Santa Cruz, Dpto. Zacapa.)

**MELODIOUS BLACKBIRD** *Dives dives*

Observed many times in the vicinity of the villages Ciudad Vieja, San Pedro and San Juan del Obispo, 4–6 km south of Antigua, Dpto. Sacatepéquez: 8 & 29 Nov 1981; 3, 6 & 25 Dec 1981; 3, 10 & 31 Jan 1982; 15 & 19 Mar 1985; 8 & 11 Dec 1985; and 2 Jan 1986. Seen at Dueñas

(c. 12 km WSW of Antigua), 18 Aug & 1 Dec 1985, at Alotenango (c. 13 km SW of Antigua), 27 Nov 1985, and at Santa María de Jesús (c. 10 km SSE of Antigua), 23 Jan 1988. These are the first records for Dpto. Sacatepéquez. On 22 Nov 1981, observed along the Pacific coast at Puerto de Iztapa, the first record for Dpto. Escuintla and the Pacific lowland of Guatemala.

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## The mangrove reed warblers of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts, with description of a new subspecies of the African Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus*

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On 26 January 1952 K. D. Smith collected what he believed to be a Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* from a population singing in coastal